(b) if so, the details of areas affected by the situation:

(c) the assessed financial loss;

(d) whether Government has put in place effective preventive measures; and

(e) the details of the financial relief provided to the affected farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRISHARADPAWAR):(a) and (b) The recent occurrence of bird-flu in the country was initially confirmed in some areas of Birbhum and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal. Subsequently, some areas in 11 other districts of West Bengal, namely Murshidabad, Burdwan, South-24 Parganas.Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, Coochbehaar, Malda, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia were also found to be infected with the disease.

(c) As per industry information, the ex-arm egg prices suffered a decline ranging from 26% in Delhi to about 42.9% in Kolkata between 7th January and 5th February, 2008. During the same period, ex-farm live bird broiler prices declined from 10.3% in Delhi to 64% in Kolkata. The poultry industry has put the loss due to the current episode of Avian Influenza in West Bengal at Rs. 1500 crore over a period of two months.

(d) The Government of India has advised the states to maintain intensive surveillance, report any unusual mortality promptly and pick up samples for testing for the disease. In order to prevent spread of the diseases to neighbouring states, a poultry depopulated zone up to 5 kms. in the broder districts of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa with West Bengal was lso notified.

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(e) The affected poultry farmers are given compensation at prescribed rates. As per information receive from the Government of West Bengal, funds to the Rs. 1100.23 lakh have so far been paid as compensation to the affected families up to 02.03.2008 for the birds culled, further, Government of West Bengal has decided to grant an interim relief® Rs. 500/- peer household. As on 3rd March 16.70 crores has already been disbursed and further disbursement is in progress.

Special packages for farmers of Kerala

*129. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI P.R.RAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many special packages have been announced by Government for the farmers of Kerala; and

(b) the details of money and other material distributed by the Centre through the scheme in Kerala?

THE MINISTEROF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) On 29th September, 2006, Government of India approved a special rehabilitation package amounting to